



July 13, 2016

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State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Matthew Quint
Division of Water Rights
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, California 95812-2000

Re: Cease and Desist Order WR 2009-0060 (CDO)

Dear Chair Marcus and Messrs. Howard. and Quint:

I write on behalf of the Monterey County Business Council (MCBC) to respectfully request that the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and Staff review and consider the measures set forth in the June 29, 2016 joint comment letter signed by MCBC members Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD), California-American Water Company. (Cal Am), the City of Pacific Grove and the Pebble Beach Company addressing the Preliminary Staff Recommendation to the subject CDO prior to the SWRCB Board meeting on June 19. The MCBC also respectfully joins in the comments and concerns raised by MCBC member Theodore Balestreri, II, in his letter of July 3, 2016 on behalf of the Monterey County Hospitality Association.

The MCBC is a 501(c)(6) comprised of professionals from business, government, and education devoted to workforce and economic development throughout Monterey County. We promote the concept of private-public partnerships by bringing business experience and techniques to the public arena in order to attract and retain businesses so that our communities may thrive. Unfortunately, Monterey County suffers from unemployment rates substantially higher than the national average and is considered a distressed county on the basis of low per capita income and high rates of poverty and unemployment. As is made clear by the referenced comment letters, the proposed Staff recommendation to the CDO would have devastating impacts to our economy. Ever since Cal-Am was ordered to reduce its pumping from the Carmel River, we have become national leaders in water conservation efforts while working diligently to support a suitable water replacement source that should be completed by 2020. While the Preliminary Staff Recommendation provides the requisite time, the drastic reductions in the amount of water allowed to be pumped from the river until a replacement source is secured will result in exorbitantly increased water rates and lead to rationing, while the removal of local discretion to determine whether properties with existing meters might seek expanded water use would prove the death knell of any local economic development. Accordingly, the MCBC urges that Staff modify the proposed amended CDO in accordance with the comments set forth in the aforementioned letters and the SWRCB approve the same at its July 19th meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Turlington, Executive Director

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2746, Monterey, CA 93942 ♦ Phone: (831) 216-3000

Email: info@mcbc.biz ♦ Web site: www.mcbc.biz